

Justice Court

Department Overview

The Justice Court is the court responsible for the original jurisdiction of all civil and criminal cases outside of the City of Bozeman. The courts provide an effective and efficient court system for the residents of the county. The courts accomplish this while being fiscally responsible within the budget allocated to them.

For FY 05 the Justice Court saw an increase in Justice of the Peaces to two (2) full time Justices of the Peace. While this increase is budgeted actual hours worked are maintained below the approved budget.

In FY 06 the Court was authorized to hire a Court Clerk in September 2005, to meet a significant increase in workload. The Justice Courts have seen a 30% increase in cases filings since 2000. At the same time Justice Court Collections have increased from \$957,895 in 2000 to \$2,019,844 in calendar year 2005, a 48% increase in revenue.

Unfortunately, a significant portion of these revenues is transferred to the State. The increases in cases and fines is a direct result of an increase in law enforcement officers, significant increases in the number of debt filings and the legislatures increase of the monetary limit for civil suits to \$7,000.

Another factor in increased workload is the number of residents in the county and the increased reliance on courts for satisfaction to complaints or grievances.

Department Goals

- To establish an effective, efficient court that is easily accessible to the public.
 - To insure that employees are well trained, helpful, friendly and accurate in their dealings with the public.
 - Bailiff's presence during Law & Motion.
 - Video Arraignments.
 - Bi-Annual Training for the Judges.
 - Annual Training for Clerks.
 - Second Courtroom inadequate in size-needs to be enlarged.
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Recent Accomplishments

- Comprehensive Case Management Software.
- Staff professionalism pursued by the Office Manager.
- Mediation in civil Matters with 75% settlement on cases mediated.
- Court has facilitated the increased caseload in a smooth and efficient manner.
- Continued on the job training for the clerks.
- Video Arraignments in both courtrooms.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Justice Court

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2005	Final FY 2006	Actual FY 2006	Request FY 2007	Preliminary FY 2007	Final FY 2007
Personnel	\$ 436,815	\$ 480,011	\$ 473,601	\$ 488,191	\$ 514,407	\$ 517,720
Operations	149,348	170,122	152,502	184,411	177,829	177,829
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	13,505	35,155	28,981	20,000	20,000	20,000
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 599,668	\$ 685,288	\$ 655,084	\$ 692,602	\$ 712,236	\$ 715,549

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 599,668	\$ 685,288	\$ 655,084	\$ 692,602	\$ 712,236	\$ 715,549
Special Revenue Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 599,668	\$ 685,288	\$ 655,084	\$ 692,602	\$ 712,236	\$ 715,549

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ (2,260)	\$ 45,161	\$ 44,709	\$ 45,643	\$ 59,717	\$ 59,995
Non-Tax Revenues	601,816	596,433	608,362	602,799	599,842	599,842
Cash Reappropriated	112	43,694	2,013	44,160	52,677	55,712
Total	\$ 599,668	\$ 685,288	\$ 655,084	\$ 692,602	\$ 712,236	\$ 715,549

Department Personnel

Personnel Summary

No	FT/PT	Title	FTE
2	Full-Time	Justice of the Peace	1.75
1	Full-Time	Executive Secretary III	1.00
8	Full-Time	Justice Court Clerks	8.00
Total Program FTE			10.75

Justice Court

2007 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- No Change.

Operations

- No significant change – reduction in FY 08 for elimination of Public Defender expenses will depend on costs associated with mediation for full year.

Capital

- Capital Outlay \$10,000 – 4 replacement computers
- Capital Reserve \$10,000 – 1 scanner, 1 copier

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the county government. Listed below are the County Commission's goals, followed by the methods by which Justice Court is striving to fulfill those goals.

Exceptional Customer Service

- Prompt, accurate and timely processing of cases filed.
- Civil Judgments entered in a timely manner.
- General Temporary Orders of Protection are ruled upon and issued on the same date they are received in court.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- Effective, efficient court easily accessible to the public.

Improve Communications

- Access to Website.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Provide professional development to staff.

Justice Court

WORKLOAD INDICATORS/PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Workload Indicators

Indicator	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Estimate FY 2006	Projected FY 2007
1 . Cases Filed		13,500	14,414	13,500
2 . Court Collections	1,845,000	1,850,000	2,019,844	1,850,000

Performance Measures

Measure	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Estimate FY 2006	Projected FY 2007
1 . Increase Video Arraignments to 20% of cases	N/A	9.26%	9.71%	11.48%
2 . Law & Motion	4,300	4,300	4,500	4,700
3 . Reduce Judge Trials to 10% of cases	N/A	12.96%	13.18%	15.19%
4 . Jury Trials	312		312	462
5 . Increase Mediations by 5% each year	Base		0%	8%
6 . Hearings	2,000		2,200	2,400
7 . Omnibus Hearings	1,700		1,850	1,950

Commentary

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